

**Delaware Bicycle Council  
Strategic Planning Workshop  
February 10, 2001  
Belmont Hall, Smyrna DE**

Representatives Present:

Don Carbaugh, Chair  
Paul Stevenson  
Jay Kelley  
George Heberling  
Bill Boyd  
Carl Anderson  
Laura Madara

Staff Support Present:

Joseph Cantalupo  
Dave Petrosky  
Wendy Bernard

Guests Present:

Bill Wilkinson  
Tim Plemmons

**Introductions**

Bill Wilkinson, Executive Director of the National Center for Bicycling and Walking, was the workshop facilitator. The Center is a non-profit organization that works across the country helping state and local agencies with bicycling and pedestrian issues.

He felt the Delaware Bicycle Council (DBC) was ahead of other states in regard to the cooperation it has with the Delaware Department of Transportation. He also felt this was a good time for bicycle advocacy in that several national topics, such as TEA-21, clean air issues, and health concerns, benefit the Council and that now is the time to get things done.

**What is your vision for a bicycle-friendly Delaware?**

Several visions were given:

- For Delaware's goals to be similar to some European countries, which are extremely bicycle and pedestrian friendly.
- To have all modes of travel (including bicycling) be viable and practical options of transportation, with no obstacles to any mode, especially to major employment sites and schools.
- For communities to be interconnected.
- For a major draw for bicycle enthusiasts in each county.

Joe Cantalupo, Assistant Director of Planning and Policy for the Delaware Department of Transportation, spoke of the Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan (SLRTP) which is a 25-year plan. There are two aspects that will be of interest to the DBC, a Statewide Bicycle Plan and a Statewide Pedestrian Plan. DelDOT will be looking at other states bike plans, such as MD DOT, NJ and PA. One of the Department's goals for the Statewide Bicycle Plan is to set parameters for communities. It is hoped the plan will not be just a document, but a process used in project planning.

## **What are the Problems/barriers/deficiencies and what kind of change's need to made?**

Some issues brought up were:

- DelDOT funding for Bike/Ped. Projects.
- Right-of-way and public access.
- The public mind set of gas powered vehicles needing the majority of funding.
- The recent referendum for Schutte Park was voted down, residents need to be educated so the perception of recreation is improved.
- An independent bicycle advocacy group would help the DBC, which currently takes on that responsibility.

Governor Minner has a "Livable Delaware" Agenda which could help the bicycle pedestrian issues.

The DBC should contact the "Bicycle Coalition of Delaware Valley" and get them involved with us.

## **What is the Role of the DBC in helping bring about changes?**

A brief overview of the Delaware Code was given by Don C. to give the specific role designated to the DBC by legislation, which states:

Del. Code §1701: "There shall be no salary, but each member shall be entitled to be reimbursed for his or her reasonable out-of-pocket expenses for attending any meeting of the Council."

Del. Code §1702: "The Council shall possess all necessary powers and duties to consider, review, and work on matters pertaining to bicycling, bicycle safety and bicycle safety education and to make recommendations to the various state agencies..."

Some of the successes of the DBC are:

- Cape Henlopen: The DBC was responsible for getting the Park Pedalers program started, which provides bikes to park patrons.
- The Bike Policy: The DBC, in particular Liz Holloway, were instrumental in getting the policy implemented, which was an objective of the DBC.
- Design Manual: DelDOT added design standards for bicycling in their update of the Design Manual.
- The Bike Time Trials and other race events.
- There were bike lanes installed in the new sections of Bike Route 1 to Bethany.
- The DBC has worked with the University of DE, The Department of Education, and 4-H Clubs on National Safety programs such as Train the Trainer and Kids One.
- Working on safety education with the states school nurses & the BMX Track on Milford.
- Bike Month in May.
- The helmet bank and the Child Helmet Law.
- Tyler-McConnell Bridge and Rt. 7 & Rt. 40: Former Secretary Anne Canby allowed the DBC to work on the work groups for these two projects. Subsequently the Rt. 7/ Rt. 40 project was completed with good provisions for bicycling.

Some frustrations or things for the DBC to do are:

- The DBC doesn't see any road or subdivision plans for bicycle compatibility.
- The DBC should take a more active role in state projects, including sending a representative to public meetings and having a greater role in the Council on Transportation.

Some opportunities for the DBC are:

- Jay K. and Don C. suggested the DBC become more active in public workshops. There is sometimes low attendance at these meetings, with a few negative citizens, who don't represent the majority of the community's views, killing a project. If there were proper representation, some of the initiatives would be implemented. Some current examples are the Grubb Road and Churchmans' Road projects.
- Joe C. suggested the DBC take a look at the state's CIP and send a representative to the Council on Transportation when they discuss the CIP to make recommendations on projects concerning bicyclists.
- The DBC could also work with local governments regarding their comprehensive land use plans or their land development processes.
- The DBC could also comment on the LUPA reviews put out by the Office of State Planning.
- The DBC could contact umbrella civic groups such as the Council Civic Organization of Brandywine Hundred.
- The DelDOT Bike Plan should incorporate the state land use comprehensive plan to make a complete statewide bicycle picture as a whole. Some states to look at would be NJ, MD and PA.
- The role of the DBC should be as a resource for information for agencies/groups regarding issues important to bicycling, such as striping guidelines or helping counties with their comprehensive land use plans.
- The DBC could look into advertising on the radio, at the malls with kiosk's, newsletters, and even e-mail to get more participation, and let communities/agencies know it is a source of information.

Overall, the DBC should try to become a stronger voice in Delaware, work to get more funding, and for the DBC to have an active role in The Department's Statewide Bicycle Plan.

#### Priority's that the DBC could address

- The Transportation sub-committee of the DBC needs to network and respond to opportunities for advice/comments. It also needs to get a broader representation of people, who would not necessarily be members of the Council, but people willing to work on issues. Try to recruit people from high schools, people who bike to work, recreation bicyclists, agencies, and off trail bicyclists.
- Continue public education about bicycling including helmets, bike safety, etc.
- Help with the State Bicycle Plan.
- Continue the Train the Trainer program in elementary schools. The State Police could help by incorporating bicycle safety into its training programs and include it in the drivers' education and 55 Alive courses. Vice versa the DBC could go to the State Police and train them.
- Possibly change the DBC to the Delaware Bicycle and Pedestrian Council to broaden the customer base and have more of a voice. To incorporate the change, it would have to be done by a state legislative action.
- Work on getting more funding for the DBC.
- Organize statewide advocacy groups to get more people to meetings.
- Work with the DE Valley Bike coalition, making them aware of issues in DE and encourage them to work together with the DBC on them.
- Engage the DBC's allies and become involved in initiatives such as clean air. The Public Health office might be able to help with funding since bicycling is a health topic.
- Bike Month in May, planning needs to get underway. It would be a good idea to tie in the current initiative for Air Quality into Bike Month.

### **How is the DBC going to get the job done?**

- The DelDOT Bicycle/Pedestrian coordinator could flag projects in the CIP or other projects which might be of interest to the DBC.
- The DBC could get involved with County Planning staffs, Dover/Kent MPO & WILMAPCO, to help prioritize projects for the CIP's and even get higher rankings for projects by being involved and recommending projects. The DBC could also submit projects to the Pipeline Process on its own.
- The DBC needs to find out where the Striping and Signing standards come from so they can be updated.
- Joe C. talked of the upcoming Sign Study and would like to get the DBC involved.

The Council agreed on the above list of priorities for the up coming year and will accomplish it all by reestablishing the subcommittees with each one working on a priority. In setting up the subcommittees, the DBC realized it has some good assets in that several of its members are good resources and have good connections, i.e.:

- Don C. and Tim P. are members of the WILMAPCO non-motorized subcommittee.
- Dave P. and Jay K. are DelDOT employees.
- Tim P. represents the Greenways & Trails Council and is employed at Delaware Greenways, Inc.
- And Laura M. is part of the parks.

It was decided that Don C. would manage the next meeting to develop the subcommittees, and that the following members would make up the subcommittees:

- Transportation Committee: would be chaired by Carl A. with help from Dave and Jay K.
- Publicity Committee: would be chaired by Paul S.
- Legislative Committee: would be chaired by Tim P.
- Safety & Education Committee: would be chaired by Laura M.
- Bike Month: would be chaired by Bill Boyd with help from the rest of the committee such as Tim P. helping with the Legislative Ride. We should try to get some media coverage and get a statement from the Dept. of Public Health on the benefits of bicycling.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was concluded at 2:05 and since there was much more to discuss, it was decided we would try to have another follow up meeting in March, with Wendy B. coordinating a date for everyone.

**The next DBC meeting will be held on  
Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.  
at  
The Delaware Department of Transportation Administration Building  
North Conference Room.**